

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00836 01 OF 02 111005Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 SY-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 /097 W
-----079825 111050Z /20

R 110910Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 6608
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 0836

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AKB
SUBJECT: TERROIRIST TRIALS: POSSIBILITY OF ATTACKS ON FOREING
OFFICIALS IN BERLIN

SUMMARY. THE BRITISH HAVE PASSED ON TO US AND THE FRENCH
A REVISED ASSESSMENT BY BERLIN AUTHORITIES OF THE TERRORIST
THREAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRIALS BEGINNING HERE APRIL 11.
THE BERLIN STAATSANWALTSCHAFT, LFV AND CRIMINAL POLICE
REASON THAT THE JUNE 2 MOVEMENT TERRORISTS MIGHT BE TEMPTED
TO TRY KIDNAPPING PROMINENT FOREIGNERS. IF SO, THOSE IN
BERLIN (WEST) CONSIDERED MOST IMMEDIATELY AT RISK ARE THE
THREE ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND THE SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL. WE
HAVE NO INDICATIONS OF A SPECIFIC THREAT. HOWEVER, WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00836 01 OF 02 111005Z

FEEL FURTHER PRECAUTIONS ARE PRUDENT AND ARE PROCEEDING
TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION AS INDICATED IN PARA 2
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 7 THE BRITISH MISSION PROVIDED THE FRENCH AND
US WITH THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

BEGIN TEXT.

1. ON 23 MARCH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL KAMMERGERICHT STAATSANWALTSCHAFT, LFV AND VB C MET TO EVALUATE THE LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM CONCERNING THE 2ND JUNE MOVEMENT. THE MEETING AGREED ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO EXIST SEPARATELY FROM OTHER TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (IE THE RAF), AND THAT SINCE THE KIDNAPPING OF HERR PALMERS IN VIENNA MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF CONSIDERABLE FUNDS FOR USE IN ANY ACTION AIMED AT SECURING THE RELEASE OF THOSE OF THEIR COMRADES CURRENTLY HELD IN BERLIN.

2. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HISTORY OF THIS MOVEMENT THE MEETING CONSIDERED:

A) IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD ATTEMPT AN OUTRIGHT ASSASSINATION (AS WITH BUBACK):

B) NOR, HAVING REGARD TO THE REACTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN STOCKHOLM AND KIDNAPPING OF DR SCHLEYER, WOULD THE MOVEMENT BE ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER THE KIDNAPPING OF PROMINENT GERMANS.

C) HOWEVER, THE MOVEMENT MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO TRY KIDNAPPING PROMINENT FOREIGNERS, IN THE HOPE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -OR BERLIN SENAT AS APPROPRIATE - WOULD COME UNDER OUTSIDE PRESSURES IN DECIDING WHETHER TO MEET THE TERRORISTS DEMANDS.

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3. THE MEETING WENT ON TO CONCLUDE THAT IF THEIR REASONING WERE CORRECT, THE PERSONS IN WEST BERLIN MOST IMMEDIATELY AT RISK AT THE PRESENT TIME COULD BE:

A) THE THREE ALLIED COMMANDANTS

B) SOVIET CONSUL-GENERAL BYKOV

THE MEETING ACCORDINGLY AGREED TO SUGGEST THAT THE ALLIES MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMANDANTS AND THAT - AT LEAST INsofar AS HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES ARE CONCERNED - THE US MISSION MAY WISH TO LOOK AT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SOVIET CONSUL-GENERAL'S SECURITY IN LIGHT OF THIS ASSESSMENT.

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PAGE 02 USBERL 00836 02 OF 02 111036Z

4. REPORTED FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION AS CONSIDERED ADVISABLE. FOR HIS PART GENERAL RICHARDSON HAS AGREED TO CERTAIN MEASURES BEING TAKEN FOR HIS PROTECTION.
END TEXT.

2. WHILE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF TARGETING OF FOREIGNERS IN BERLIN IS LACKING, WE FIND THE REASONING IN THE ABOVE REPORT SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING TO MERIT OUR TAKING FURTHER PRE-CAUTIONS. EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT MEMBERS OF THE JUNE 2 MOVEMENT ARE IN TOUCH WITH AND COLLABORATE WITH THE ITALIAN RED BRIGADES. THE LATEST EDITION OF THE ANARCHIST PUBLICATION IN BERLIN KNOWN AS "BUG-INFO" REPORTS FORMATION OF A "JUNE 2 TRIAL" COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL STRUGGLE AGAINST "SECRET POLICE JUSTICE." THE PUBLICATION ASSERTS THAT THE MORO KIDNAPPING CONTAINS LESSONS FROM BERLIN, AND THAT "WE SHOULD USE OUR IMAGINATION WELL AND DRAW THE APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS." IT CLAIMS THAT JUNE 2 MEMBERS FROM BERLIN WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MORO KIDNAPPING BY "TYING UP ROME'S TELEPHONE NET" AND CREATING TRAFFIC CHAOS DURING GETAWAY PERIOD.

3. THE BRITISH COMMANDANT IS NOW ACCOMPANIED ON AT LEAST SOME JOURNEYS WITHIN THE CITY BY A FOLLOW-CAR CONTAINING BRITISH MILITARY POLICE IN PLAIN CLOTHES. USCOB IS CONSIDERING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. THE SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL'S PROTECTION PRESENTS A CHALLENGE. WE DOUBT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A POLICE FOLLOW-CAR ON HIS ROUNDS. FOR OUR PART WE WOULD NOT WISH, WITHOUT GOOD REASON, TO SET A PRECEDENT WHICH OTHER CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN BERLIN

(WEST) MIGHT SEEK TO HAVE APPLIED TO THEM AS WELL. WE FEEL THAT THE BEST APPROACH AT THIS POINT IS FOR A US MISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS THE TERRORIST THREAT QUESTION WITH THE SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL, IN ORDER TO APPRISE HIM OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00836 02 OF 02 111036Z

LATEST ASSESSMENT BY THE BERLIN AUTHORITIES, AND TO GET A BETTER FEEL FOR WHAT TYPE OF PROTECTION HE MAY DESIRE. WE ARE PREAPRED TO PLACE GUARDS ON HIS RESIDENCE, FOR EXAMPLE.

4. WE BELIVE THAT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE IS IN BERLIN ARE ALREADY ADEQUATE. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A GREAT NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS RESIDENT IN BERLIN. USBER HAS CIRCULATED TO ITS US EMPLOYEES ON THE EVE OF THE TRIALS A MEMO REMINDING OF THE PRECAUTIONS WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS BE TAKEN BY EMPLOYEES ABROAD TO LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS.

5. MISSION WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS BY EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT.

6. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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